

A free, honest, and objective press is essential to modern democracy. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. When it chooses to blatantly support one political party, we can be pretty sure it's really supporting its own bottom line. In the process, however, thousands of voters will be influenced; the bias and lack of objectivity will be hidden behind "news" -- and people tend to trust news programs. As indeed we should be able to!

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.